

II. REMARKS

Claims 1-37 and 39-46 were previously cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 38 and 47-65 are currently pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner requested that Applicants elect “for the purposes of search, a single species of pain such as cancer, post-surgical, lower back, neck, toothache, etc. (e.g., see claim 48).” *Office Action, page 2 (emphasis in the original)*.

In response, Applicants elect, without traverse, the species of cancer pain.

In the Office Action, the Examiner also requested that Applicants elect “for the purposes of search, a single species of sustained release carrier such as alkylcellulose, hydroxyalkylcellulose, etc. (e.g., see claim 55).” *Office Action, page 2 (emphasis in the original)*.

In response, Applicants elect, without traverse, the species of alkylcellulose.

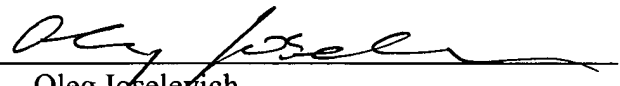
Applicants submit that claims 38 and 47-65 encompass the elected species.

III. CONCLUSION

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below in the event that a telephonic interview will advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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